Being a Negro in Paterson

by

Anita Flynn

1947

INDEX TO ILLUSTRATIONS AND CHARTS

(None of these photographs was taken in Paterson, but all of them might have been).

Copy Four

INDEX

PREFACE

The purpose of this paper is to present factors in the life of a normal person in Peterson, with the normal ambitions - to earn a living, to raise and educate a family, to save some money, and to have a little fun - if that person is also a Negro.

The material for this description is drawn from

1. primarily, interviews (about 50) with Negro leaders (all but two of known reliability), and a few white social workers and officials. (Most of these interviews were confidential, and while there is general agreement on most points, no specific attributions have been made, and material has been so presented as to make it impossible to trace individual sources);
2. observation over a period of 17 years, as a resident of the city (mostly in the Fourth Ward), a teacher, and for some years as an officer of the Inter-racial Commission and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;
3. study of the scanty published material on the city and county, and some on the state;
4. census data.

The nature of this paper makes it factual but not statistical, verifiable but not "proved" in a legal or scientific sense. Its validity depends on factors not evident in the type-written sheets: the judgment of the writer in choosing and rating the persons interviewed, and her accuracy in reproducing their statements. (It should be noted that notes were not usually taken in the presence of the person interviewed, except figures and addresses, but that in nearly all cases the record was made within ten minutes to an hour afterward).

Originality is not possible in a paper of this type: Paterson is not peculiar among northern industrial cities. But no one else, so far as I know, has recently attempted to describe specifically for Paterson the factors affecting the average Negro of good standing.



INTRODUCTION:

THE POPULATION OF PATERSON

Certain general facts about Paterson's people should be known.

The population is mixed. In 1930 it was 67% native white, 30.8% foreign-born white, and 2.1% Negro. About 1% of the entire population had been born in the South, and it seems reasonable to suppose that more than half of this was Negro (as it was, for example, in Newark); if so, about 43% of the Negroes in Paterson were Southern born. (There is reason to believe, however, that most of them had lived in the city for ten or more years).

In 1940, although the total population of the city had gained only .8 %, and the foreign-born had declined by over 4,000, the Negro total had risen from 2952 to 4268, an increase greater than the increase in the total population. This was a rise of 44.5 % in the Negro group, which now became 3.1% of the city. (1) The Negro families had increased 39.9%, the white families 8.2%.

There is considerable migration. 24.6% of the Negroes had come from the South - not the deep South, but the middle. Not all who came, stayed. About half as many moved out as came in, between 1935-1940.

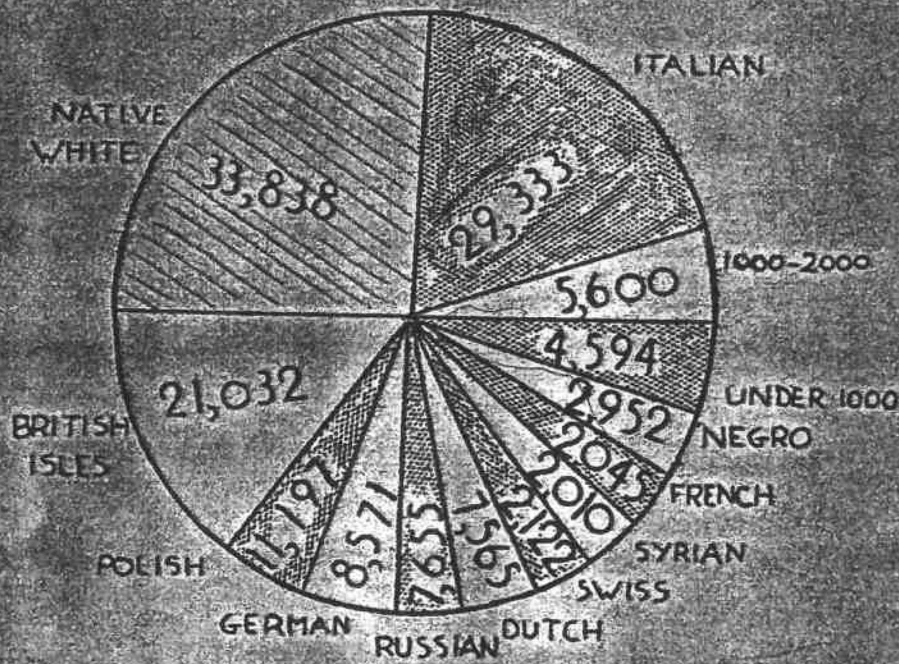
Perhaps a quarter of our people came originally from the South.

Since 1940, the total population of Paterson has risen to 150,000, according to the Chamber of Commerce estimate. This would be 14.5% increase. No one has any figures on the Negro influx; an informal estimate by some of the Negro pastors places it at about 1800, which would be over 40 %.

The character of the city in which this population lives markedly affects their lives and their interrelations. Paterson is a city of varied industries. The municipal government is unprogressive; its services to its citizens are limited, often inefficient, frequently ungracious. Appointments are political; administration is generally believed to be corrupt. In such a city, alertness to general social problems by officials cannot be expected, and enlightenment on the needs of a particular group is still less likely. County and state agencies vary; they are, in general, not highly rated.

The non-governmental social agencies are on the whole staffed by capable people of genuine fitness. They are handicapped by a marked lack of local leadership, by the invariable failure of the Community Chest to reach its inadequate goal, and by the resulting rapid turnover in the under-staffed agencies. While most agencies welcome an opportunity to serve Negroes, and would like the help of a Negro staff-member, few can

THE WORLD IN PATERSON



TOTAL POPULATION:	138,513	
No. Foreign-Born	42,609	30%
No. Second Generation	45,159	32%
No. Mixed Parentage	13,818	10%
No. Native White of Native Parentage	33,838	25%
No. Negro	2,952	2%
No. Other	137	

These figures include about 22,000 Jews.

The implications have not greatly changed.

one, nor can they give the time and money for studying and seeking out this four percent of the population.

The foreign-born and their children numbered in 1930 about 75% of the population, and while the proportion of foreign-born has somewhat decreased, the practical implications are on the whole unchanged.

EMPLOYMENT

The sources for this chapter included:

Interviews (# = white)

- wife of a Negro doctor
- secretary of a Negro doctor
- head of a veterans' group
- 2 school teachers
- real-estate dealer
- nurse
- war-worker
- member of Passaic Welfare Commission, resident in Paterson
- # employment counsellors in three high schools
- # staff member, New Jersey Employment Service
- # staff member, New Jersey Division against Discrimination
- # 2 Passaic County union leaders
- # nurses' training advisers in two high schools
- # supervisor of a nurses' training school
- # director of one of the largest hospitals
- # chairman of a graduate nurses' committee
- # a placement counsellor for teachers
- # an educator of distinction
- # principal of the grammar school with largest Negro roll

Other material

Federal Writers' Project
New Jersey Guide 1939

New Jersey Revised Statutes, amendments of April 16, 1945

New Jersey Conference of Social Work
Survey of Negro Life in New Jersey: Passaic and Paterson 20 pp. Trenton Jan. 1932
The Negro in New Jersey 116 pp Dec. 1932

New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies,
Wm. J. Ellis The Negro in New Jersey n.p. n.d.

New Jersey Division against Discrimination
Report of a Preliminary Study of Employment Practices, unpub., February 1947

New Jersey Employment Service
Labor Market Developments for the Paterson Labor Area unpub. April 1947

New Jersey State Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population
Reports 1939, 1940

Paterson Board of Education Unpublished data on enrolment, curriculum elections, etc. 1947

U.S. Census Bureau, 16th Census (1940):
Population: Characteristics: New Jersey
Population: Characteristics by Age: New Jersey
Population: Internal Migration
Population: The Labor Force: New Jersey

That there is at present no Negro commercial student in Central above the 3-2 term (i.e. above 16) suggests that the course was merely a way of passing the time. 22 students are in the household arts course, generally chosen as a preparation for nursing or dietetics. That it is not so regarded by the Negro girls is suggested by the fact that in Central we have no such student above the second year, and in Eastside only 3 in the fourth year. The "mechanics arts" courses enrol 33 boys, which seems rational. Only one school has a Negro student above the third year in this course.

The most regrettable symptom is the number of people in the "academic" and "academic with Latin" courses. The first is taken by college preparatory pupils, and more often by those with no special aim. Since very few of our Negro students go to college, the presence in this course of 50 students is an indication that they see no vocational help in high school. The "academic course with Latin" is elected for nursing, the priesthood, or medicine. We have eight Negroes in this course, so that most of them must be actuated by indifference, or pure love of Latin, since the three vocations mentioned are closed to practically all of them.

This apparently unwise election of courses is made at the end of the eighth grade, but does not appear to be the fault of the grammar schools. In the school with the largest Negro

group, a vigorous effort is made to help all children and parents to reach a decision. Of the parents of 60 graduates, they got 40 to attend the evening session of the academic high school for prospective freshmen, and the boys and their parents were taken also to our two vocational schools.

The vocational schools are two: they offer three-year courses with certificates, and four-year courses with diploma. In the Vocational High School of 600, about 10 are Negroes, and in the June 1947 diploma class, there was none. The school admits 150 each semester out of about 240 candidates, the teacher doing most of the vocational guidance, a trustworthy person, assures me that there us no color factor in the selection, and that he feels that there should be more Negro boys getting the school's training.

On the other hand, I do not remember a Negro boy's ever completing any Vocational School course. Some years ago, the School frankly discouraged them from entering, on the argument that it was the school's business tot rain boys for employment, and it should select applicants whom employers would hire. Few Negroes entered, and none finished. When short training courses were begun for defense-workers, Negroes were at first excluded, and the Board of Education admitted this when it eventually reversed the policy. (I have always attributed this reversal to insistence from the federal government, which paid for the courses).

EMPLOYMENT

Employment is the bitterest discrimination, in Paterson as elsewhere. The problem starts, in part, with the barriers to job-training.

Figures concerning Negro students in the two public high schools indicate a sharp drop in the upper years, reflecting not only the urgency of earning money after 16, but very probably a feeling that further high school training is not profitable. (Almost without exception, Paterson pupils and their parents value high school as a pathway to higher wages). The figures for the year ending June, 1947 are:

	First year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth
Both schools	73	40	47	27
Central	27	15	5	5*

*Although there are 5 in the June 1947 and January 1948 classes together, only one or two actually graduate each half-year.

The courses which Negro students elect would indicate either that we do not give effective vocational guidance, or that many Negroes are indifferent in their selection of courses because so many occupations are closed to them. Of the 127 students in the two schools, 61 are in the commercial course. Yet in 1940, only 12 Paterson Negroes were employed in clerical and sales positions, and the New Jersey Employment Service and the employment counsellors of two high schools find it impossible to place a Negro girl in such a job.

[illegible] Paterson nor Passaic County has a vocational school for girls. As the commercially-run schools (i.e. beauticians', practical nurses, business) generally do not accept Negroes, this lack bears more hardly on them.

Apprenticeship

Apparently, courses outside the vocational schools are given by unions or employers. Where the unions give the course, in the case of one large and powerful county group, I was assured that there was no color line, preference going to veterans and union members. This last indirectly is discriminatory, since trade union is "union shop", which means that when employers do not hire Negroes, they reduce the Negro membership of the union, and thus the number of Negroes who can get training courses.

On-the-job training is felt by everyone I consulted to be limited by the habit of mind which hires a Negro only for menial work and does not think of him as material for promotion.

If a Negro is trained for a job, he is still unlikely to get it. The open exclusion of Negroes from training in the war-workers' courses was justified by the refusal of war-plants to hire them. At that time, our local papers published pages of display advertisements for skilled, semi-skilled, and willing-to-be-trained men and women, and at [illegible] one of them ran an expensive radio program to attract workers. While resident Negroes were still barred, our already inadequate housing rapidly jammed with out-of-town

EXECUTIVE ORDER 8802

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

. . . . . . I do hereby reaffirm the policy of the United States that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or Government because of race, creed, color, or national origin, and I do hereby declare that it is the duty of employers and of labor organizations, in furtherance of said policy and of this order, to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin . . . . . .*

Franklin D Roosevelt

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE WHITE HOUSE
June 25, 1941

**Excerpt from Executive Order 8802*

unemployed, with workseekers rising 77% in a single month and [illegible] openings are largely [illegible] skilled workers in occupations which exclude Negroes, or at wages which are too low to attract workers. The job hunters are about 75% male, but 75% of the job offers are for females. Since a surplus of labor bears harder on the Negro, the implications from this imbalance are bad for Negro family life. Three out of 5 Negro women over 14 worked in 1940. (In 1930, the mother worked in over half the families).

Employment services report that employers don't want Negroes. Employers justify this by white workers' attitudes, and one employment counsellor implied that this was true. (With the increase of insecurity, an increase of prejudice may be expected, against Negroes as against Jews, "foreigners", refugees, and married women. But a union leader, himself a worker against discrimination, assured me that employers in his industry are generally themselves prejudiced, in spite of satisfactory war-time experience with large numbers of Negro workers).

A recent study by a state agency [illegible] interviews with 54 employers. 30 of these were unwilling to employ Negroes, and 7 more were rated only "fair" in their attitude. Only 3 of the 19 types of



Some Negroes got into labor unions.

industry includedx had Negroes well-represented, and for the 54 firms as a group, Negroes were 5.4% of the employees. Of these same 54 employers, 1 rated Negroes better, 6 worse, and 41 rated them the same as white workers. Yet it would seem that 23 of the employers who found Negroes as useful as whites, still were unwilling to use them.

No local employer now has a Negro personnel worker.

Employment services, I believe, ignore the state law which forbids employers to discriminate, or even "to make any such inquiry in connection with prospective employment, and forbids anyone else, specified ly agencies, to abet such discrimination. "I have never heard of an interviewer or manager reporting a violation of the law to the Division against Discrimination", said an employment counsellor.

Concerning labor unions, there can be no question that the protection of union membership is in large measure denied to the Negro of the nation and of New Jersey. But the interviews I had on the subject produced such flat contradictions that I prefer to make no statement on the Paterson situation until I gather more material.

Whoever is to blame, in many occupations the Negro is not found.

In 1940, 2239 Paterson Negroes were employed.

Of these, 35 were professional or semi-professional, 16 owned or managed retail places, 16 were clerical or sales workers, and 65 were craftsmen or foremen.

The remaining 2000 were laundry or factory workers, domestic or service workers, or laborers. No one who has read the anthropologists or who has taught in our high schools, can believe that these figures corresponded to the number of capable Negroes.

I have never seen or heard of in Paterson a Negro in private employment serving a white clientele in any of the following capacities: saleswoman (1 exception), salesman, waiter or waitress in restaurant or hotel, bank clerk or cashier, store cashier, beautician, receptionist, typist, stenographer, fitter, plumber, electrician, reporter, photographer, milliner, barber, social worker, recreation leader, camp counsellor, practical nurse, trained nurse (3 exceptions).

No non-nursing hospital position (except for maids and porters) is open to Negroes. I am told by placement workers that there is no work for a Negro mechanic, and that work in textiles is closed (but this is flatly contradicted by a union leader).

because she can find no employment of any kind except in a laundry or as a domestic.

A high school graduate, now the wife of a professional man, answered an advertisement for salesclerk ina a department store. They had "no opening", but offered a maid's job in the beauty parlor. The advertisements continued.

The census figures for 1940 indicate the Negro's situation:

81.6% of Paterson's white workers were employed, 71.1% of Negro workers.

The implications for the tax-payer are shown in the federal work project figures:

4.8% of the white workers were on the rolls, 11.4% of the Negro workers.

A comparison, for the entire state, of experienced workers out of work shows much the same story: (11)

Race of Employed Persons Seeking Work: 1940

	White	Negro
All industries	10 %	18%
Construction	25	45
Manufacturing	8	13
Public Utilities	6	12
Wholesale, retail trade	8	13
Business and repair services	10	15
Government	3	0.7

U.S. Census Bureau, 16th Census (1940): Population: Labor Force: New Jersey p. 107 Washington 1942 155 pp.

"There is no possibility of placing a Negro girl in clerical or sales work." "Most employers don't want Negroes." "Only one employer has asked for Negroes - a laundry". "Some white employers will take Negro construction workers." "Work as a machinist is out." "I have never sent a Negro girl out without asking - and the employers always said no." "Employers generally say they don't discriminate, but this is mostly lip-service."

The attitude of one counsellor for young people is indicated:

Q. What opportunities have you had to place Negro young people?

A. I have had very few calls for Negroes from employers.

Q. There haven't been any opportunities to place Negroes?

A. They (the Negro young people in his constituency) haven't come to me and I haven't seen any necessity for doing anything about it.

These experiences are typical:

A high school graduate with an I.Q. of 107, ranked in the middle of her class, conscientious and reliable, is entering a local college simply

In public utilities, jobs above the menial level are non-existent.

There are no railroad employees (the resistance of the railroad brotherhoods to any compliance with the New York anti-discrimination law has recently brought them into court).

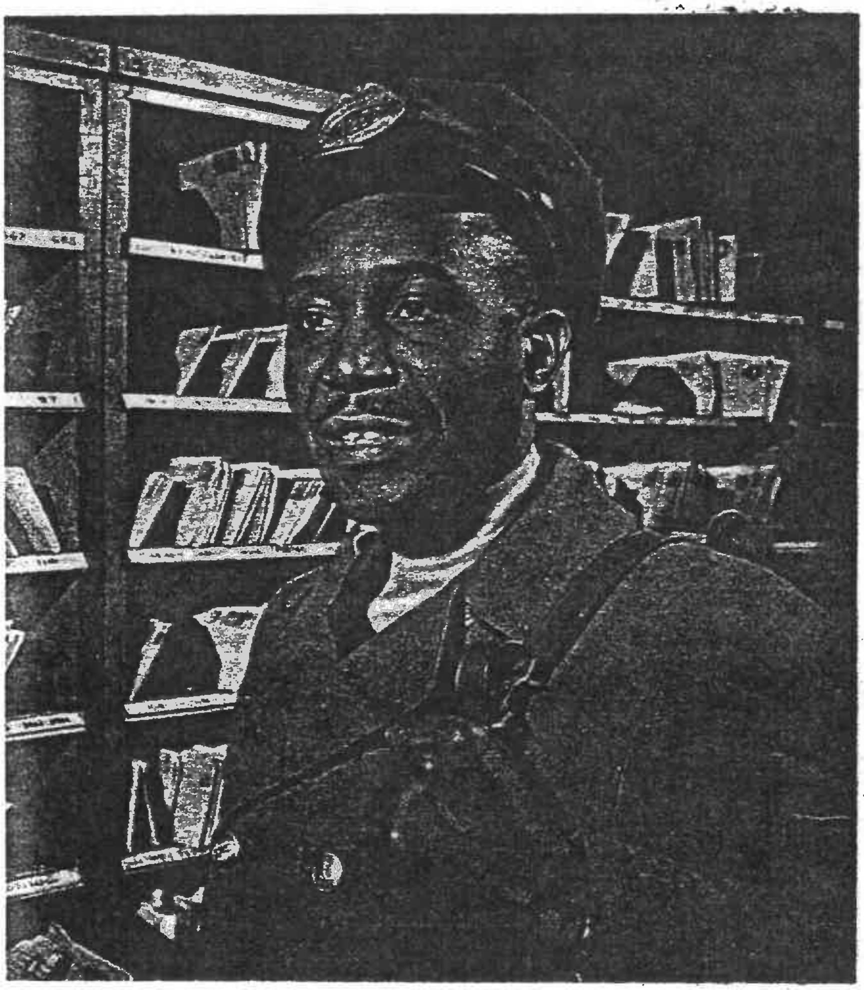
If the Public Service Corporation employes any Negroes in transportation or in its gas and electric division, it is a deep secret. Independent bus companies do not hire them.

The telephone company has taken on two or three telephone operators , under pressure, and apparently as token compliance; they were hired as Negroes.

It is at least of theoretical interest to sum up here the 1945 New Jersey law on discrimination in employment: There may not be any discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, or ancestry, such as to interfere with gaining or keeping employment or promotion, or with rates and conditions of work, nor may inquiries be made before employing a person. Employers, labor organizations, and employment agencies are forbidden to make or aid discrimination. And all persons are forbidden to help or require such discrimination.

Concilliation, hearing, and court enforcement make up the steps in executing the law.

The person aggrieved has only such share in the pro-



ceedings as may be allowed by the Assistant Commissioner of Education, who as head of the Division against Discrimination, enforces the law.

In the past year, not over 10 complaints of discrimination have been made from Passaic County.

Public employment in Paterson occupies few Negroes, above the menial level.

The post office has 2 mail carriers and 1 clerk,

There is one Negro clerk in one state agency, and the State College has one Negro clerk and would welcome a Negro instructor.

I know of no county employee.

The city has 5 teachers on tenure, and 1 detective; these appointments were made about 20 years ago, and unill 1946, no others occurred. Recently, 3 teachers have been appointed as probationers or substitutes. (It should be noted that Negro teachers, once appointed, find no discrimination by officials, parents, or children).

The Negro veterans have sought appointments without success in the police and fire departments.

There are 3 other city employees: an elevator girl whose father is a political worker, and two untrained case workers in the Relief Department, themselves politically active,

It will be noted that the qualified Negro seeks government employment only where he can acquire legal tenure.

The Paterson Negro who looks for government appointment outside his own city is, sofar as I can learn, without hope. Negro teachers can be placed nowhere in northern Jersey except in Englewood, Hackensack, Montclair, or Newark, always in schools predominantly of Negro children.

A survey of 7 municipalities in Passaic County showed that only 4 employed any Negroes, and those generally as janitors, etc.; the 3 others frankly did not want them. Only 1 city (presumably Paterson) had several Negroes as white collar workers in various departments. Of the 7, the investigator thought the attitude of 4 "very favorable", 1 "fair", and 2 "antagonistic".

In the view of the Attorney-General, the law against discrimination is binding on all officials and agencies of the state or any subdivision.

HOUSING

The sources for this chapter included:

Interviews: (#-- white)

former chairman of Passaic Welfare Commission, now in Paterson

2 Negro real-estate dealers

minister

veteran

Negro purchaser of house

minister's wife

several leading citizens

3 white social workers

manager, City Low Income and Veterans' Housing Projects

representative, Paterson, Travelers' Aid

Other material

New Jersey Conference of Social Work
Negro Life in Passaic and Paterson 1932

New Jersey Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population
Reports, 1939, 1940

Paterson Social Planning Council
Handbook of Social Services in Paterson, 1945

U.S. Census Bureau, 16th Census (1940)
Housing: General Characteristics: New Jersey

Newark Housing Authority
Cost of Slums in Newark 36 pp. 1946



Homes are crowded

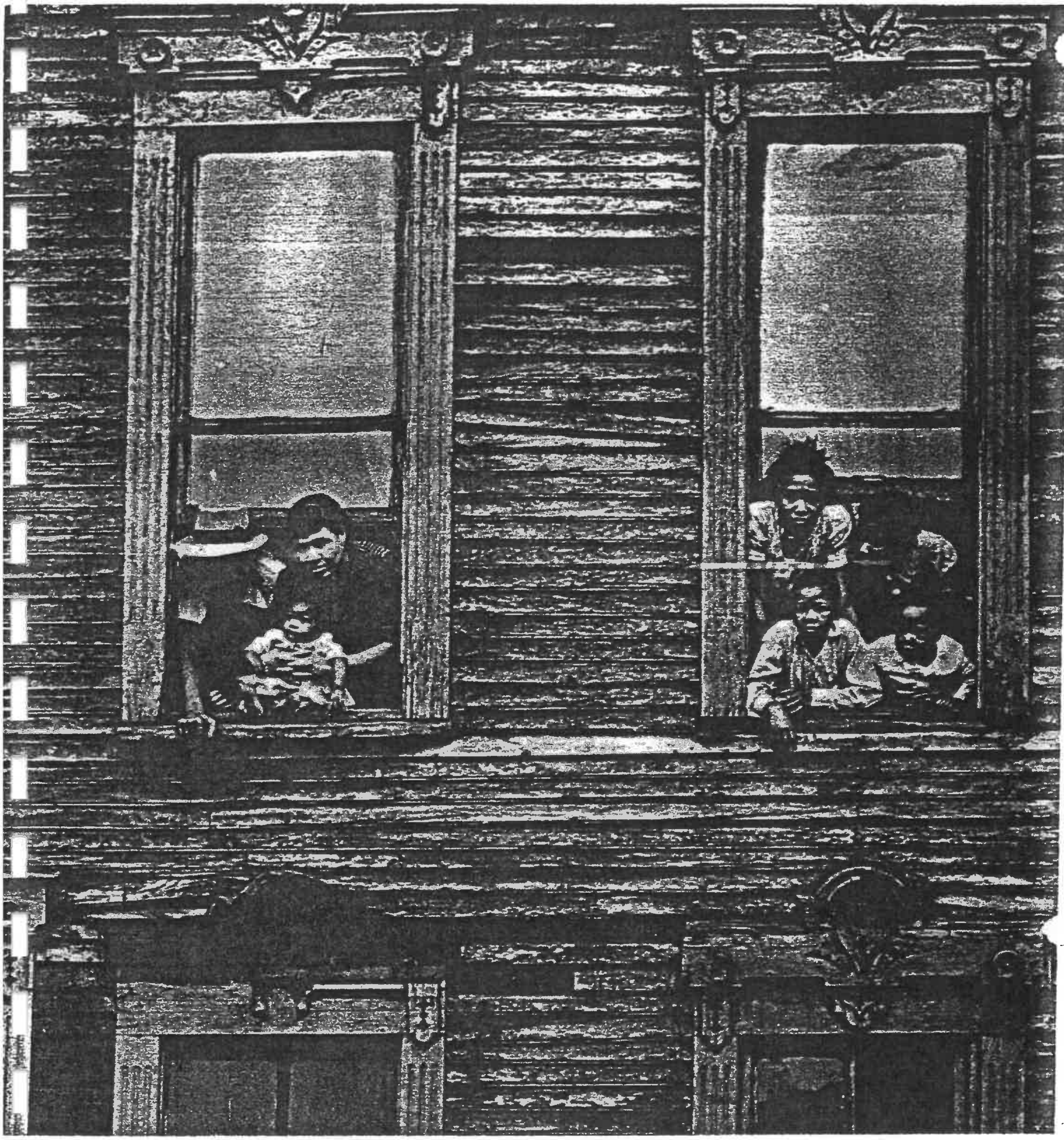
HOUSING

Next to employment, housing is the main problem and grievanse.
Paterson with only 8 squere miles, has had insufficient housing for many years, and most of it is poor. Much of it is bad: 1157 family units have outside toilets, and 54 have none at all. Poor housing is not limited to Negroes, but Negroes are mostly limited to poor housing.

Important to Negroes is the fact that poor housing is scattered in most areas of the city, and with it Negro and other low-income groups. In consequence, some kinds of segregation and discrimination are difficult.

Most people in Paterson are tenants: in 1940, 73.4 % of the whites, 95.5% of the Negroes/. Most people are crowded: in 1940, the white family averaged 3.9 persons in 4.65 rooms, the Negro 3.85 persons in 4.40 rooms. This would imply 2 persons per beedroom. To-day, one assumes that crowding is greater, espec-room for the Negro; during the war, 8-11 people often lived in 3 rooms, I am told.

The average rent paid in 1940 was $24 for whites, $17 for Negroes.
78 % of Negroes used ice for refrigeration, 42.5% of the whites.
51.9% of Negroes used gas, electricity, kerosene, or gasolene for cooking: 97.8% of the whites.
88% of Negro homes had electric lights, 98% of white homes.



This could be in my ward.

on the first default in payment. One sale at $14,000 to widow with children, having only $1300, and mother's pension as her sole income, was prevented only by recourse to the State Board of Child Welfare.

"The Negro is unable to rent. When he already had a place, OPA protected his tenure, although freezing his rent at the discriminatory rate he was paying in 1941. But if he has to seek a place now, he is less likely to find one than a white person, and the rent will be wildly extortionate, conditions poor.

Aspen Street, Passaic - family of 5 in 3 rooms -poor light and ventilation - stove heat -cold water-no bath - $35

Main Street, Passaic - bathroom opening on unbarred drop of 20 feet; falling plaster

- Governor Street - converted to Negro tenancy - 4 rooms- no bath - rent raised to $65.
- Clinton Street - converted - rent raised from $24 to $125 as "furnished apartment" (stove, chair, and table)

Pearl Street - 2 cellar rooms - bad neighborhood - $30

Other conditions

Casually boarded, unheated toilet compartments on back porch

One toilet for 6 families (2 later added)

Outside toilets for 6-family house

Toilets out of order

Community toilets without lock, and with large openings in floor-boards.



Only about 50 Negroes owned their own homes in 1940, and the median value was under $2500. The median value for whites was $3000. (The number of Negroes forced to buy has now increased the number of home-owners, and the average value - or rather the price - would be considerably higher).

At all times, it is hard for a Negro to buy. Real estate dealers are reputed to include in their codes of ethics the exclusion of Negroes from "white" areas. To-day, as never before, sellers can choose their buyers, and some are frank to refuse a Negro.

A white intermediary is sometimes used - in one case at a fee of $1000. The owner, later discovering the facts, balked possession for over a year.

Prices are even higher for Negroes:

Carroll Street - $11,000

* Summer Street - a $700 purchase remodeled: $14,000

* Summer Street - $3500 house for $7500

Auburn Street - house in bad repair for $6000 (plus $900 for re-surfacing, plus other repairs and decorating)

East 33d Street - $7000 (1942) houses for $17000

Pearl Street - 2 cellar rooms in bad neighborhood - $30 month.

Inability to rent, and lack of capital to buy, create a racket.

One notorious practitioner accepts a $50 - $300 down payment on a purchase price of $7000 - $14000, and recovers title

* These examples come from an unreliable person, believed to be trustworthy in this instance.



Reported $11,000



2 cellar rooms - $30

Public housing has not greatly helped. One of the veterans' housing groups is a segregated project in a heavily-Negro area. In the low-cost housing project there are 21 Negro families, also segregated, by decision of the director. (Negroes are represented on the tenants' committee, attend community affairs, and have no friction with their white neighbors). The proportion of Negroes is much less than the proportion in the city in bad housing. The director could not give me a copy of the scale by which applicants are rated .

For the Negro transient there is no commercial shelter. One "hotel" of doubtful quality, and one less than doubtful, are crowded with long-term roomers. No other hotel or boarding housing is open. The Travelers' Aid turns to Negro clergymen, who try to find a private family with a bed. The Salvation Army shelter now will take an indigent Negro, but the Good Shepherd Mission accepts no black lambs. Until the Salvation Army relented, the only overnight haven for a Negro without money was a police cell.

The Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. dormitories do not exclude Negroes, but their vacancies are rare.

HEALTH

The sources for this chapter included:

Interviews (# = white)

graduate nurse

teacher

secretary to doctor

doctor's wife

leading citizen

director of large general hospital

supervisor of nurses' training school

representative of trained nurses

2 high school advisers to prospective nurses

Director, home visitor, and head of nurses, City Health Department

Other material

Annual report of large general hospital

New Jersey Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population Reports, 1939, 1940

Paterson Board of Health Statistical Reports for 1945 and 1946, and unpublished data on vital statistics.

Segregated Public Housing

HEALTH

The Negro's health needs are greater, his opportunities less, than those of the general population.

Representing 3-4% of the population, he provides 10-12 % of the cases at the city tuberculosis clinic, though in 1946 only 3½ % of the tuberculosis deaths.

Negroes account for 48% of the cases at the venereal disease clinic (though this is not necessarily their proportion of the total number of cases in the city). Of 6000 men of all races tested at the draft centers, about 5% had venereal infections ; of 900 adults (mostly Negro) tested in two districts in 1946, 80 had V.D. - 8.8%.

Both the birth and death rates for Negroes are lower than their estimated proportion to the population.

The City Health Department, the City Isolation Hospital, the County tuberculosis sanitarium, all appear to serve the Negro without discrimination. So do the three general hospitals (there may be minor exceptions, particularly in the matter of semi-private rooms). None has a Negro staff-member.

The Negro person ill at home is in a different case. The city doctors' services to indigent persons of either race are not admired, and the number of visiting nurses is small. Practical and trained nurses are for the Negro not available.



Not in Paterson. "She wouldn't be happy".

Call 4/11/47

Faced with the problem of how to provide for a score of incoming expectant mothers, one of our local hospitals appealed to another Paterson institution for help and was advised that it could take in 21 maternity cases if nurses could be supplied to take care of mothers and babies. But neither hospital had the trained nurses needed.

There are 5 Negro doctors, one nearly inactive - one to 1000 or more population; white people have about one to 50 people. The Negro doctors are all (I believe) trained in Lincoln or Howard Universities; only two are on the courtesy staffs of the local hospitals (~~a third~~ the inactive one does no hospital work), and none has ever had the important advantage of serving on the regular staff. They cannot treat their own patients in the hospitals, except the few who cann afford semiprivate rooms, and a recent head of one hospital strongly objected to their having such accomodations.

Negro graduate nurses have been excluded from local hospitals. Very recently, the smallest has employed two or three. Of the others, at least one has closed facilities for 75 patients for lack of nurses. The local press this week reports one hospital appealing in vain to another for care for 21 maternity cases; neither had the necessary nurses to receive the mothers.

No accredited nurses' training school* in the city or the state receives Negro girls. In the hospital I checked, part at least of the administration, and both the trainees and the graduate nurses, are believed to be hostile. Their school, with a capacity of over 100, has declined to 79. It is believed that Negro girls wishing to be practical nurses must go to New York City for training.

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* September, 1947, Barnert Hospital Training School admitted two. The other two hospitals, whose enrolment has greatly declined, also expressed willingness in the spring of 1948. (Kathryn Merry)



Athletes generally draw no color line.

RECREATION

The sources for this topic included:

Interviews (# = white)

two ministers

minister's wife

Girl Scout leader

5 leading Negro citizens

social worker

executive secretaries, YWCA and YMCA

commissioner, Board of Recreation

director, Department of Recreation

staff member, Boy Scouts

chief probation officer of county

Other material

New Jersey Conference of Social Work — Survey of Negro Life in...Passaic and Paterson 1932

New Jersey Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population — Reports, 1939, 1940

Passaic County Probation Office — Report, 1946, and unpublished data

Paterson Social Planning Council — Handbook of Social Services, 1945

RECREATION

The recreation situation in Paterson is bad for everyone, and worse for the Negro.

The public schools offer less in the way of extra-curricular activities than any that I have taught in. What they have is genuinely open to all pupils, but few Negroes take part, except in sports.

The city Department of Recreation offers a sports program, mostly for self-organized groups, a hobby program, and leaders in summer on the school and other playgrounds, which are inadequate in size, number, and equipment.(In my ward, for example, with a population of 1900, and at least 1200 school children below high school age, I know of nothing but a paved school yard and two little "handkerchief parks". The Department, after many years, is allowed the facilities of any public school, but must pay expensive janitors' fees out of a small budget.

Paterson usually has a professional football team, and several semi-pro. teams in other sports. They have had Negro players, and so far, as I know, athletes generally draw no color line.

The youth organizations vary. The Y.W.C.A. is thoroughly and intelligently inter-racial, with Negro board member and volunteers. Younger grils' groups are inter-racial.

This is as near as you can get to swimming.

With adolescents, a mixed "canteen" was a failure because of white parental interference, and the Negro teen-agers now meet in their own group with a Negro leader, sharing on Saturday nights the big dance room with the white clubs. At the recent "Y" conference at Grinnell College, the Paterson Y.W.C.A. was represented by two boys and two girls, one of each a Negro.

The Y.M.C.A., after many long years, has opened all its facilities and services to Negroes, and reports that no complaints have been heard from the white constituency. Its informal neighborhood programs attract boys of both races.

The Y.M.-Y.W.H.A. and the C.Y.O., while welcoming Negroes, in the nature of things encounter few.

Swimming is almost completely denied to Negroes. The only pools in the city are in the Y.M.C.A., which is available, the Y.M.-Y.W.H.A., and one commercial pool which bars Negroes. When, last summer, the playground groups were taken at intervals to another commercial pool to swim, it was discovered that the children from one largely group were not desired. It was necessary to hire a bus to take them, twice during the season, to another town. The inhospitable pool did accept all the children for the end-of-season all-playground Aquacade (at which most of the events were won by a Negro boy). This year, the pool yielded to an "all or

none" ultimatum, but this may apply only to Negroes brought in the playground groups.

Scouting reaches about 150 Negro boys, in the Paterson and suburban area; about half in mixed troops. There are two troops and a Brownie group for girls in Paterson, and no mixed troops. The Boy Scouts assure me that they allow no distinction.

Camping opportunities are fair. The three "Y's" all conduct summer day camps, all open to Negroes. Through the Y.W.C.A., Negro girls may attend any of several mixed camps at Bear Mountain, or an all-Negro camp if they insist. The Y.M.C.A. sends its boys to the state Y.M.C.A.'s camp, and a number of years ago they began taking Negro boys. The City Missionary Society's camp is for whites. I know of no private camp that accepts Negroes. The Boy Scouts assure me that their camps are open. The camp to which local Girl Scouts go allows them Negroes only a post-season, segregated camp, which they refuse.

Open without regard to age are the taverns in one bad section of town, according to a Negro clergyman. He had little confidence in police action.

Generally speaking, commercial and public recreation (i.e., card parties, dances, etc., offered by fraternal orders, fire companies, and other groups) are not usually attended by Negroes. The moving picture theaters are an exception, and during the war gave up segregation. The commercial recreation center offering skating, dancing, pool, and other amusements was recently forced by the local A.Y.D. to admit Negroes.

Generally speaking, a Negro coming to Paterson from outside would find little recreation unless he attended a Negro church, and most do not. The churches are small, and have little space for activities. None has any paid staff other than the minister. Negro homes in general are crowded and small for entertaining. Negroes, who are 3.1% of the population, are estimated to have 30 - 40 % of the recorded juvenile delinquencies.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The sources of this chapter include:

Interviews (# ± white)

2 ministers

4 officers of Negro organizations

pastor of the Negro Catholic organization

volunteer worker with this congregation

Other material

La Farge, John, S.J. The Roman Catholic Experience, *Survey Graphic* January 1947, 36:61-

Pauley, James A. comp. The Negro Church in New Jersey Works Progress Administration Hackensack, New Jersey 1938 51 pp.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The church is the center of more interests for the Negro than for the white: social, civic, and legal-defense activities, emergency aid, and sometimes job-finding, tend to connect with the church.

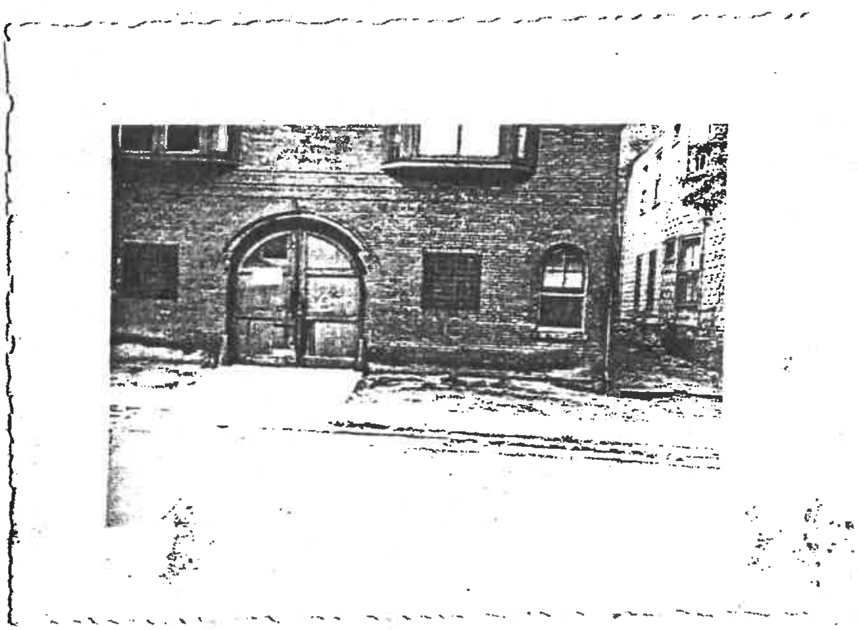
There is one Negro Catholic congregation of about 200, whose white pastor is aided by two white nuns who give relief and other aid. The pastor reports occasional success in inducing employers to hire Negroes. He feels that his people wish to be separate.(1)

There is a small Episcopal mission, with a qualified rector.

1. ~~La Farge, John~~ To the Catholic Church "the right of men to be non-segregated is fundamental. ... I know of instances where special pastoral work for the Negro has been started in Northern cities." La Farge, John S.J., "The Roman Catholic Experience", Survey Graphic 1947 36:61—



Churches vary.



Of the better-known denominations, the Baptists have five churches, four of whom have trained ministers; several of these must earn part of their living by supplemental work. The Methodists (A.M.E. Zion) have one of the two largest congregations - perhaps 500, well organized, with an outstanding minister. The A.M.E. congregation has a garage-church. The Presbyterians have a long-established, loyal congregation, and a trained and capable minister. There are ten others of less well-known sects, some serving groups as small as 15. To draw and hold a congregation so unstable may sometimes mean methods of doubtful spirituality or outright sensationalism.

One minister estimated, after 15 years' experience here, that one-third of the Negro population, or less, has active church connection, and that of this group, about two-thirds are in two congregations alone.

Three of the churches have adequate facilities for worship, and passable equipment for other activities. The others are, at best, cramped.

The following is a fairly complete list of Negro organizations. Beside their obvious purposes, they usually have social functions. It is my observation that a comparatively small proportion of the population belongs. These are mostly the upper level, in which not money but education and respectability are qualifications. There is a good deal of overlapping in membership.

Negro Organizations in Paterson

American Legion and Women's Auxiliary

American Lodge of Elks

American Temple of Elks

Antelopes, Grand United Order

Eastern Star

Fortnightly Club (women's; civic)

Household of Ruth

Independent Order of Odd Felcows

Integrity Lodge, F.and, A.M.

United Negro and Allied Veterans

Negro Democratic club

Negro Non-Partisan League

Negro Republican League

United Citizens' League

The local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, while it has a number of white members, depends for active work mainly on Negroes.

CIVIL RIGHTS

The material for this chapter included:

Interviews (# = white)

8 leading Negro citizens

clerk of the Jury Commission

Other material

New Jersey, Assistant Adjutant General Letter, July 9, 1947

New Jersey Conference of Social Work
Survey of Negro Life in ...Passaic and Paterson 1932
The Negro in New Jersey 1932

New Jersey Revised Statutes, as amended April 16 1945

New Jersey Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population
Reports 1939, 1940

Paterson "Morning Call" September -June, 1930-1947

Paterson "Evening News" September -June 1930-1947 (occasional issues, and some ten-month periods)

Wright, Marion T. New Jersey Laws and the Negro
Journal of Negro History April 1943, 38:156-199

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Paterson Negro who travels has major difficulties.

By New Jersey and New York law, there can be no legal discrimination in transportation, hotels, or restaurants; by Supreme Court decision there can be no legal discrimination or segregation in interstate carriers.

Transportation in this area offers no difficulties, except the occasional rudeness of individuals, but I should not take a Negro guest to most restaurants - although some local Negroes of prestige use Paterson restaurants without difficulty. There is no good Negro-run restaurant.

The Negro travelling southward reserves a seat in a day-coach, and is either placed beside another Negro or beside a white person who was consulted and expressed willingness; otherwise he does not get space on that train. (The unpredictable and humiliating difficulties of return travel from the South are outside this paper. Pullman space cannot be secured).

A Negro who can afford it may, like a doctor I know, travel southward in a drawing-room and have all meals served there.

Negroes travelling by car, in this or any area, must find places by enquiry, risking refusal and embarrassment. Finding places to eat is equally difficult.

Refusal of public accomodation in New Jersey is illegal. It is, however, difficult and embarrassing to prove, and the state gets both the fine and the civil damages, while the victim must pay his own attorney's fees above $20-$100. Legal redress is open only to the person able to spend money and time, and endure embarrassment.

Paterson newspapers are better than most in that news about Negroes never mentions color unless it is essential to the story., and never in headlines.

A recent murder case ran two columns for two days without referring to race, and even Larry Doby's purchase for the Indians last week did not unduly stress it. Photographs, which usually betray race, are in a crime case sometimes reserved for the inside-page continuation of the story.

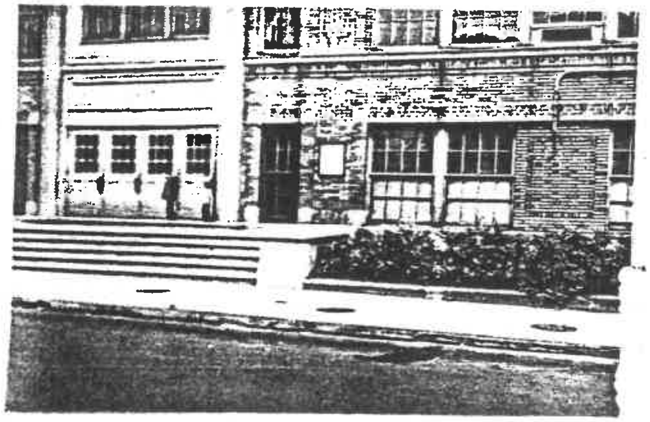
News about Negroes is generally limited to crime, church, organization (especially political), and military events. Photographs of Negroes rarely appear. During the War, I noted only three - two chaplains and a cook. Last month, I saw for the first time a Negro's picture on the social page.

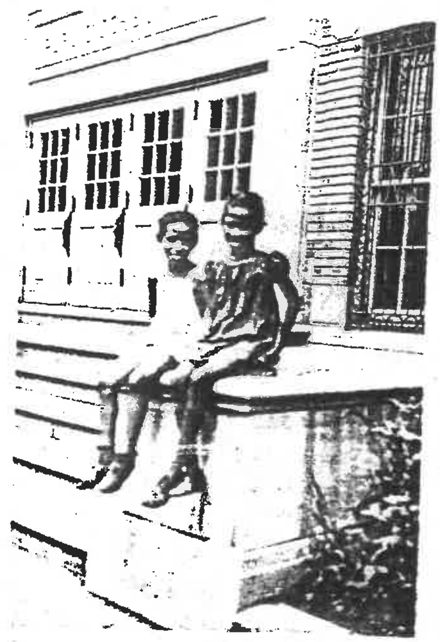
The sheriff's office assures me that Negroes constantly sit on trial juries, and frequently on the hand-picked grand juries. The latter statement I question.

Casualty insurance cannot legally be denied because of race, but a state commission reported in 1940 that because of the bias

expected of judges and juries, "Only the Negro who has ... special influence ...is able to place his application successfully with such insurance companies".

If the Negro should be the victim of a motor crash, he has one consolation: the law forbids any cemetery to refuse him a grave.





School Six is one of our best, in building and staff.

41 % of its children are Negro.

EDUCATION

The material for this chapter was drawn from:

Interviews (# = white)

3 teachers

5 leading citizens

2 officers of a Parent-Teachers Association

college advisers in two high schools

veterans' adviser in one high school

principal of the grade school with the largest Negro roll

a teacher in the same school

Other sources

Federal Writers Project New Jersey Guide 1939

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New Jersey Revised Statutes as amended April 16, 1945

New Jersey Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population Reports 1939, 1940

Paterson Board of Education Unpublished data on enrolment of Negroes in schools June, 1947

U.S. Census Bureau: 16th Census (1940) Population: Characteristics by Age Population: Characteristics of Population: New Jersey

EDUCATION

The schools of Paterson have mixed enrolment and teaching staff.
There are 26 city schools, of which 20 have Negro enrolment ranging from 1 to 500, and from 0.14 to 41 %; the Adjustment (Disciplinary)School has 37%. There are 5 Negro teachers appointed about 20 years ago; no more were engaged until September 1946, since when 3 temporary or probationary teachers have been employed. Two each have been assigned to the schools with largest Negro registration, one to Adjustment School, and two others to schools with 30% and 4% of Negro pupils. There is no discrimination against the teachers, and no significant discrimination against pupils. "Tensions" existing in the school ~~with~~ having most Negroes have in the past three years been ably removed by a capable principal and cooperating faculty, working on sound lines. This school has an active Parent-Teachers Association, with Negro ~~[illegible]~~ president and secretary.

There are no Negro school employees of any kind except teachers. There is none in the Vocational School or in the high schools; this may be due to lack of qualified applicants.

There is little consciousness of color among the children in school. I see children of both races walking

Persons from 5-24 Years, Attending School in 1940: Paterson (1)

	Total	Native white	Foreign-born white	Negroes
	56.8%	57.5%	31.8%	57.9%
16-17 years	59.5%	59.6	60.9	55.1
18-19 years	19.6	19.7	19.2	15.2
20 years	8.4	8.7	5.0	6.6
21-24 years	3.5	3.6	4.1	1.6

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED by PERSONS 25 Years Old or Older: Paterson (

	Total	Native white	Foreign white	Negroes
No years	7.3%	1.0%	17.2%	6.9%
Grades, 1-4 years	11.3	4.5	21.4	21.9
Grades, 5 or 6	13.5	10.8	17.1	23.6
Grades, 7 or 8	41.6	47.9	32.4	31.4
High school, 1-4	19.3	26.7	8.1	12.4
College, 1-3	2.7	3.9	0.8	1.5
College, 4 years or more	3.1	4.5	1.2	1.0
Not reported	1.2	0.8	1.7	1.2
	100	100	100	100

1. U.S. Census Bureau, 16th Census (1940), Population: Characteristics of the Population : New Jersey, p.13 . Washington 1942 148 pp.
2. Practically all Paterson Negroes are United-States born.
3. U.S. Census Bureau, op. cit, p.132

to grammar school together, and sometimes playing together before school. In high school, they talk, walk, play in the gymnasium, and study together, and I have never observed any discourtesy of one to the other. Negro and white athletes mix without consciousness in gym. and other parts of the building. In the lunchroom, however, Negroes nearly always eat by themselves, and travel to and from school in their own groups. Few Negroes reach the Senior year, but if they do they are occasionally elected to office.

From the table on the facing page, it is clear that:

Most Negroes leave school before high school graduation, and in greater proportion than whites.

Few go to college, far fewer than whites.

The Negro is more illiterate than the native white, less than the foreign-born white. (Assuming that schooling of four years to none implies near-illiteracy, we had 5.5.% native whites in this class, 38.6% of foreign-boon whites, and 26.8.% of Negroes).

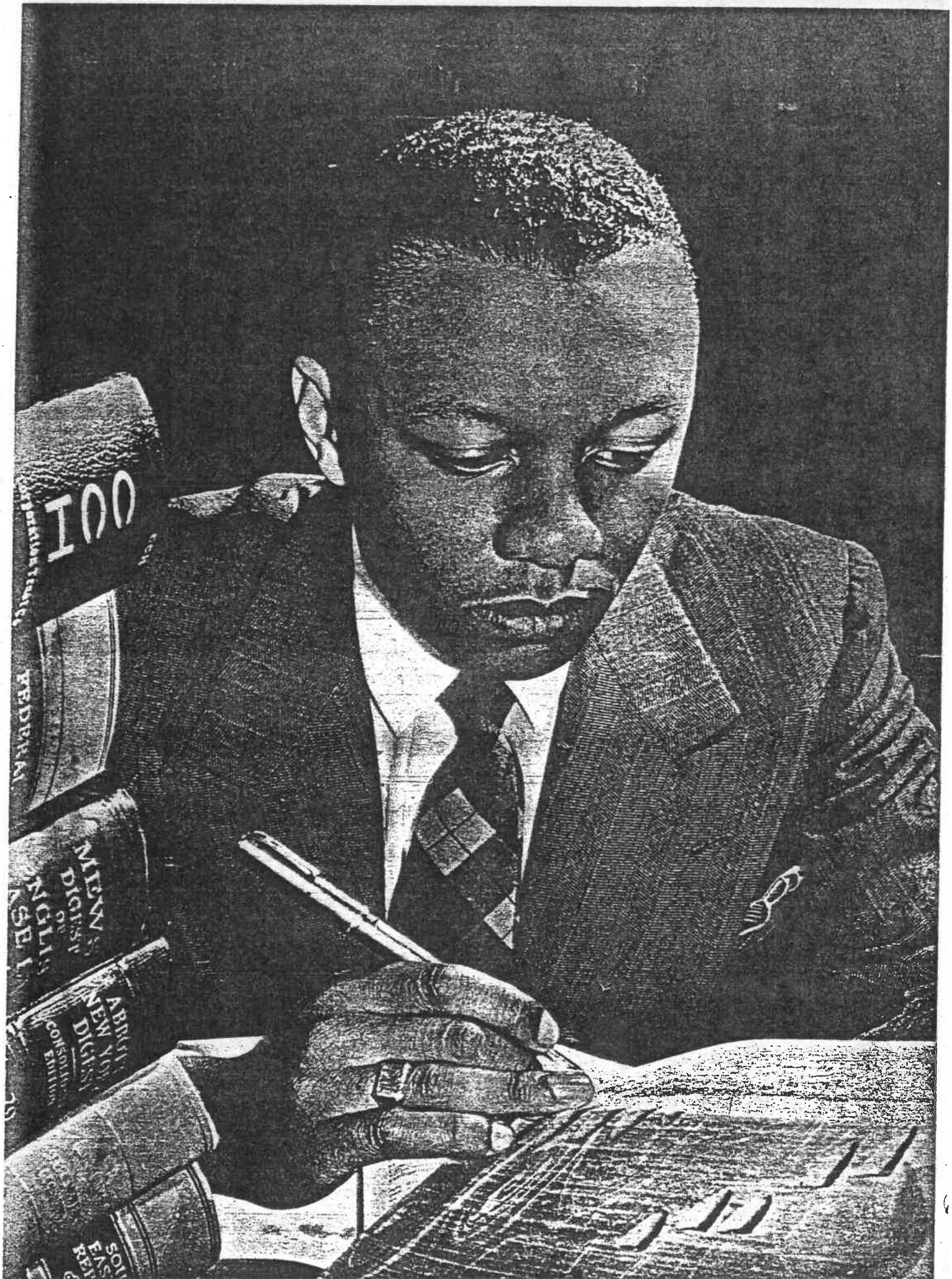
More Negroes than foreign-born whites have at least a year of high school, but the Negro's 12.4% is less than half the native white rate of 26.7 %.

Of the selection of courses in high school, and of vocational training and guidance, I have already written under job-training.

Our Negro high school graduates rarely go to college. Some attend the Paterson State Teachers College. Lack of money dictates Lincoln or Howard for most others. One Negro girl graduated from Mount Holyoke/or Wellesley about ten years ago, but in general the colleges are believed to exclude or limit except for unusual persons; their application blanks and personal interviews directly or indirectly make clear the candidate's race. The New York State temporary veterans' colleges, New York University, and a number of middle-western colleges, are believed not to discriminate. (The New Jersey Guide said in 1939, "Negroes attend all the institutions of higher learning in the state with the exception of Princeton University" (1). The adverb would be "sparsely"). The attitude of the State Teachers Colleges varies. Glassboro (at least until 1939) excluded Negroes from dormitories. Paterson State has no color line. The attitude of Montclair is not clear. Panzer, a state commission reported in 1940, filled 65% of the physical training positions in the state of New Jersey and barred Negroes.

There would be little incentive for college. Few Negroes can afford college as a luxury; it must pay for itself in opening the way to professional or semi-professional work, and to a reasonable income. For the Negro who wishes to live in Paterson, and who cannot afford the capital for setting up in medicine or dentistry, only the ministry, pharmacy, or teaching offer any chance, and that chance is small.

(1) Princeton is now reported .... to have admitted one



One in a hundred has graduated fr... - "

Social workers tell me that the Negro has the same social problems as white people, but has them more acutely, particularly unemployment and housing.

Entirely lacking locally for Negroes are : orphanage care, shelter for unmarried mothers, shelter for indigent women transients, old ladies' home - all available for whites. Day nursery care is practically non-existent. Foster homes are very hard to find, and emergency temporary shelter for a Negro child is "a matter for prayer". Schools and institutions for either normal or problem children scarcely exist, state institutions excepted.

Negroes in general suspect bias in social agencies, and do not use them in proportion to their own numbers or needs. An exception, on the whole, is the Y.W.C.A., which is, and for many years has been, completely without bias, and is largely used. The Y.M.C.A., which has recently abolished discrimination, has drawn only about 8 young men, and a number of boys.

The following list represents the Paterson social agencies, both public and private, including state agencies which have branches here; it excludes hospitals, clinics, and specifically Jewish agencies.

* The agency admittedly does not serve Negroes, or segregates or discriminates.
? The agency is believed to serve Negroes.
?? The agency is believed not to serve Negroes.
C The agency is Catholic, and would have few Negro applicants.
Where there is no symbol, the agency serves Negroes as it does whites.

Social Agencies in Paterson

American Red Cross (some dissatisfaction is expressed)

C Associated Catholic Charities

Board of Health

* Board of Recreation

Boy Scouts of America

Camp Christmas Seal (children in poor health)

Camp Hope (county; children in poor health)

C Catholic Youth Organization

? Christian Sanitorium

City Hospital (municipal; isolation; chronic cases)

Department of Outdoor Relief (some dissatisfaction; two untrained Negro workers)

Family Service

?? Florence Crittenton Home

* Girl Scouts

* Good Shepherd Mission

* Holland Home for the Aged

Hope Dell (county; indigent and aged)

? Institute of Mary Help of Christians (boarding home for girls from broken homes)

C Little Sisters of the Poor

Memorial Day Nursery

? Mount Carmel Guild (outdoor relief)

* Mount St. Joseph's Home (orphanage)

Miriam Barnert Memorial Hospital

(1) New Jersey Employment Service

New Jersey Rehabilitation Commission

Northern New Jersey (state) Mental Hygiene Clinic

* Old Ladies Home

Passaic County Elks Crippled Children Committee

Passaic County Planned Parenthood Center

Passaic County Probation Department

Passaic County Tuberculosis and Health Association

Passaic County Welfare Board (county; old age; crippled children; blind)

* Paterson City Missionary Society (relief; children's camp)

Paterson Eye and Ear Infirmary

? Paterson League for the Hard of Hearing

* Paterson General Hospital (minor exceptions)

* Paterson Orphan Asylum

Paterson Orthopoedic Association

? Powley Trust Fund (relief for Episcopalians)

G St. Frances Home for Working Girls

St. Joseph's Hospital

Salvation Army (relief; employment; shelter; counsel)

State Board of Child Welfare

Valley View Sanitorium (county; tuberculosis)

Veterans' Service Center (some dissatisfaction) (municippl)

Veterans' Administration

?? Volunteers of America (children's camp)

Young Men's Christian Association

Young Men's Christian Association

1. See discussion of employment agencies under chapter on "Employment"

FORCES FOR UNITY IN PATERSON

There is no general awareness of any problem, and no vigorous movement toward harmony. The wide distribution of Negroes in most areas of the city, their presence in mixed classes in the public schools, and the lack of any organized Silver Shirts to stir up trouble, help to prevent active animosity. Municipal officials carefully avoid open discrimination; the Negro vote in two wards might, if united, be damaging. The main problem, on the white side, lies in 1) the unawareness of many discriminations; 2) the undisturbed persistence of false assumptions on race; 3) failure to realize that there is a problem.

No white church is doing any systematic work, with one possible exception. Perhaps a dozen arrange pulpit exchanges with Negro ministers during the year. Not more than six white ministers are known to be actively interested.

The schools as a system are not working on the question as a national or city problem. Principals and teachers treat children as individuals, not by race, and there is little in the school situation to remind a child of his color. But there is no positive attack on the general white ignorance and misinformation. This summer, for the first time, two teachers have been sent by the Paterson branch of the Conference of Christians and Jews to a workshop in

intergroup relations. Some years ago, half a dozen local teachers took Rachel Davis DuBois' course in the same field. Teachers in general have good will, but are frequently uninformed and misinformed on the basic facts. I know of none who has studied any minorities (except his own), or has made any consistinuous study of school techniques.

The Interracial Commission, composed of about 20 professional and semi-professional Negroes and whites, is a mildly educational body.

The local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, after wartime inactivity is now reviving, but is at present concerned mainly with securing members. Its active nucleus is nearly all Negro.

The American Youth for Democracy and the local Communists show a definite interest.

A number of labor union leaders, particularly C.I.O., are apparently willing to aid, if definite projects were undertaken.

There are two local newspapers, hospitable to news and propaganda for harmony, and hostile to lynchings in the South.

There is a considerable amount of unorganized good will; a dozen energetic citizens, especially with a paid worker, could make considerable progress over a period of years.

At present, however, nothing effective is being done.

To be a Negro in a day like this
Demands strange loyalty. We serve a flag
Which is to us white freedom's emphasis.
Ah! one must love when Truth and Justice lag.
To be a Negro in a day like this.

James David Corrothers

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The flood of material on the Negro question is enormous; the student is oppressed by it, the lover of action, irritated. The selection below is casual, but everything in it I have found useful. No attempt is made to list pamphlets or periodical material, with one or two exceptions, or the extensive collection meant specifically for the teacher. Local materials have been listed in the body of this outline under the topic for which they were used; only those not directly drawn on are included below.

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